

Central Indiana

March 2017

Climate Summary

40th Warmest on record at Indianapolis

Tied for 36th Wettest on record at Indianapolis

Tied for 42nd Least Snowiest on record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

After the mild finish to February, temperatures feel back quickly in wake of the strong cold frontal passage early on the morning of the 1st. Highs slipped back into the 30s and 40s for the most part through the 4th. Another warmup though began on the 5th and continued through the 9th as predominant southerly flow enabled highs to rise largely into the 60s. The passage of another cold front on the 9th ushered in an extended period of the coldest weather of the entire month as the Ohio Valley remained largely under the influence of an upper trough. High temperatures from the 10th through the 15th largely were held under 40 degrees and some locations on the 13th and 14th were unable to even rise above freezing. Lows bottomed out in the teens through much of the area from the 14th through the 16th.

Temperatures modified slowly beginning on the 16th but didn't fully recover to near normal levels until the 19th and 20th as daytime highs finally rose above 50 degrees. Chillier weather briefly returned on the 22nd in the wake of a frontal passage before much warmer weather expanded into the region for most of the rest of the month. Highs surged into the 70s on the 24th and 25th, ushering in a rapid surge in vegetation growth and greenup across central Indiana. Temperatures remained above normal for the following several days, and southern portions of central Indiana were able to warm into the upper 70s to near 80 degrees on the afternoon of the 30th as a warm front moved north through the area. The passage of a cold front later that evening ushered in cooler

weather for the final day of March, with temperatures falling through the 40s on a cloudy, raw and damp day.

Average temperatures finished up generally 1 to 3 degrees above normal across central Indiana for March. If it hadn't been for the surge of warmer temperatures at the end of the month, the March average temperature at Indianapolis would have ended up being colder than the February average temperature, something that had not occurred since 1984. As it ended up, average temperatures for the month were half a degree to around 2 degrees warmer than February across the region.

Site	March 2017 Avg Temp	March 2017 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis	43.8	+1.6	75 on 24 and 25	17 on 15 and 16
Lafayette	41.4	+0.6	75 on 24	14 on 14
Muncie	42.7	+3.1	77 on 24 and 25	17 on 14
Terre Haute (*)	45.3	+2.5	74 on 24	17 on 16
Bloomington	45.4	+2.5	77 on 30	14 on 16
Shelbyville	44.7	+2.9	78 on 24 and 25	19 on 15
Indy – Eagle Crk.	43.9	+1.5	75 on 25	18 on 15 and 16

(*) – High temperature missing at Terre Haute on March 17 and 18.

At Indianapolis, there were 17 days with above normal average temperatures, 13 days with below normal average temperatures and 1 day with normal average temperatures.

March 2017 was the 40th warmest March in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Precipitation

March monthly precipitation was near normal to above normal for all of Indiana except for southwest and south central Indiana. Monthly precipitation was below normal in these areas. Monthly totals ranged from slightly less than 2 inches in southwest Indiana to more than 5 inches in central and southeast Indiana. Much of the state received 3 to 5 inches during the month.

Heavy rains at the end of February and during the early hours of March brought lowland flooding to the Muscatatuck, East Fork White and White Rivers in southern Indiana. Rivers remained above flood stage from less than a day to 9 days in southwest Indiana. Brief flooding occurred on the 20th in east central Indiana following rains of nearly 2

inches. Rainfall at the end of March renewed high water along the Wabash River in western Indiana.

Site	March 2017 Precipitation	March 2017 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis	4.72	+1.16	0.89 on 26	3 days 3-5 and 22-24
Lafayette	3.67	+1.00	1.00 on 30	5 days 8-12
Muncie	4.84	+1.89	1.35 on 20	2 days 11-12 and 18-19
Terre Haute	3.57	+0.20	1.00 on 30	3 days 2-4 and 10-12
Bloomington	4.43	+0.55	0.91 on 1	3 days 3-5 and 10-12
Shelbyville	3.68	+0.25	0.74 on 1	2 days 11-12, 15-16 and 18-19
Indy–Eagle Crk.	4.45	+1.15	0.65 on 26	3 days 3-5

March 2017 was tied for the 36th wettest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Snowfall

After little snow fell in February, March snowfall was normal to above normal for northern Indiana. Snowfall totals ranged from around 4 inches to more than 15 inches in northwest Indiana. Snowfall in the remainder of the state varied from a trace to near 3 inches. Snow during March occurred only from the 12th through the 17th.

Severe Weather

Severe thunderstorms that developed over the Mississippi Valley ahead of a strong cold front on the evening of February 28, moved across parts of central Indiana early on the morning of March 1. Storms produced wind damage and hail, with several brief tornadoes reaching EF1 and EF2 intensity impacting parts of Daviess, Lawrence and Jackson Counties prior to daybreak on the 1st. For more information on this event, please go to <http://www.weather.gov/ind/feb28mar12017severe>

Scattered strong thunderstorms affected primarily the northern Wabash Valley on the early morning of the 7th ahead of a cold front. Storms exhibited strong wind gusts around 50 mph. Thunderstorms producing large hail tracked from northwest to

southeast across central Indiana during the afternoon of the 20th. The largest hail fell near Arlington in Rush County with golf ball size stones occurring.

To finish out one of the busier Marchs in recent years, severe thunderstorms developed along a warm front moving north through the region on the afternoon of the 30th. A supercell produced hail up to golf ball size and multiple funnel clouds as it tracked northeast through Madison and Delaware Counties. A broken line of strong to severe storms along a cold front followed during the evening with additional wind damage occurring from the north side of Indianapolis northeast towards Pendleton, Fortville and Anderson.

For information on severe weather in other areas during March, visit the Storm Prediction Center “Severe Weather Event Summaries” website at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/online/>.

Miscellaneous

The maximum wind gust at the Indianapolis International Airport was 50 mph from the south-southwest early on the morning of the 7th and again from the west on the afternoon of the 8th. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 16 days during the month, with dense fog occurring on the 17th and 18th. Thunder occurred on five days in March.

April 2017 Outlook

The official outlook for April 2017 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates a greater chance of above normal temperatures across central Indiana. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 53.0 degrees. The outlook also calls for equal chances for near, above or below normal precipitation. The average precipitation for April at Indianapolis is 3.81”, with 0.2” of snowfall.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.